

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS



May 12, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

There is bipartisan consensus that we must correct our country's fiscal trajectory in order to build an economy that works for all Americans. It is time for lawmakers to take action on the deficit and exhibit the political courage necessary to accomplish this tremendous task. As part of the Congressional Progressive Caucus' (CPC) larger effort to construct a practical economic platform for America, we write to request that CPC leaders be included in the current bipartisan talks to negotiate a comprehensive deficit reduction package, as well as future discussions regarding our nations' fiscal solvency.

We believe that outlining clear policy objectives is the only way to frame a serious debate about these issues. "Triggers," "caps," and other process-related budgetary gimmicks serve only to distract attention from the concrete policy ideas needed to solve the problems we face.

The Congressional Progressive Caucus has put forth the People's Budget, a plan rooted in principles shared by the majority of the Americans: Invest in education, infrastructure and transportation, protect the social safety net and create a fair tax system. The People's Budget eliminates our deficit and gets our national debt under control by putting America back to work and ensuring that everyone pays their fair share. The CPC budget cuts \$5.6 trillion from the deficit over ten years, produces a budget surplus, and reduces debt to below 65% of GDP. Compare this with the Republican budget proposal, which increases the deficit by \$6 trillion over the next decade, hardly a serious commitment to fiscal responsibility.

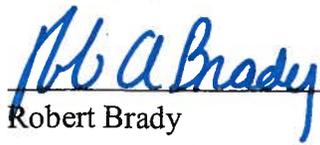
The decisions that will be made in this Congress will have a profound and lasting impact on the future of our country and the American people. That is why we believe that the most fiscally responsible policy proposals, with the broadest support from the American people, must have a seat at the table. Those proposals are represented in the Congressional Progressive Caucus' People's Budget.

We have an obligation to put the American dream back within reach for the majority of Americans, and we look forward to working with you, Mr. President, to achieve that goal.

Sincerely,


Raúl M. Grijalva
Co-Chair, Congressional Progressive Caucus


Keith Ellison
Co-Chair, Congressional Progressive Caucus



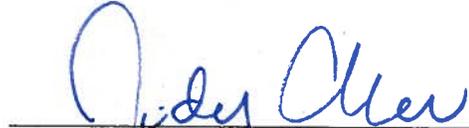
Robert Brady
Member of Congress



Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



Andre Carson
Member of Congress



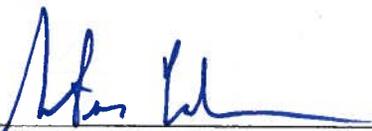
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Yvette Clarke
Member of Congress



Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



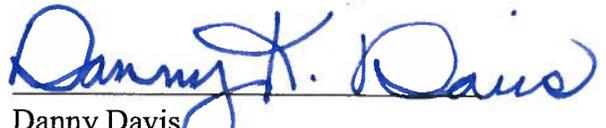
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



John Conyers
Member of Congress



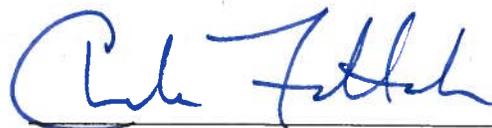
Elijah Cummings
Member of Congress



Danny Davis
Member of Congress



Sam Farr
Member of Congress



Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress



Bob Filner
Member of Congress



Barney Frank
Member of Congress

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Marcia Fudge
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Luis Gutierrez
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Alcee Hastings

Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress

Maurice Hinchey

Maurice Hinchey
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes-Norton

Eleanor Holmes-Norton
Delegate to Congress

Michael Honda

Michael Honda
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Jesse Jackson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Eddie Bernice Johnson

Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress

Hank Johnson

Hank Johnson
Member of Congress

Dennis J. Kucinich

Dennis Kucinich
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

John Lewis

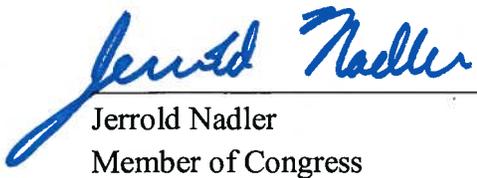
John Lewis
Member of Congress

Jim McDermott

Jim McDermott
Member of Congress

Jim McGovern

Jim McGovern
Member of Congress

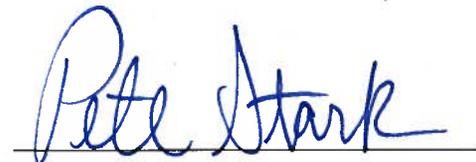

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress


John Olver
Member of Congress

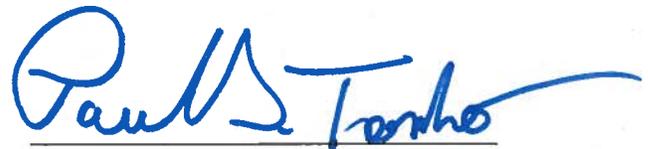

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

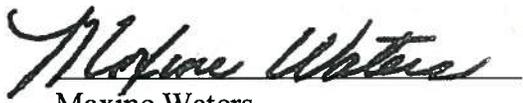

Laura Richardson
Member of Congress

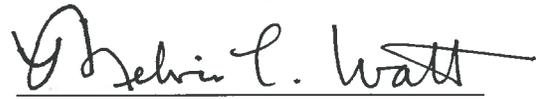

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

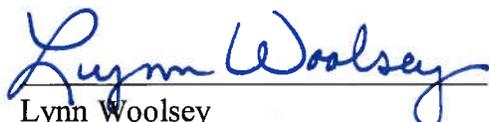

Pete Stark
Member of Congress


Bennie Thompson
Member of Congress


Paul Tonko
Member of Congress


Maxine Waters
Member of Congress


Melvin Watt
Member of Congress


Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress